

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 AID-05 /084 W

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R 010920Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1841

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG FR XF

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ATTACKS ARAB "DOUBTERS"

SUMMARY: CAIRO PRESS PLAYS SADAT'S VISIT TO FRANCE AS GREAT SUCCESS FOR ARABS, NOT SIMPLY FOR EGYPT. THOSE WHO DOUBT EGYPT'S ARABISM ARE ENGAGING IN SLANDER. END SUMMARY

1. CAREFUL READERS OF CAIRO'S ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS WILL HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY APPARENT FALL FROM GRACE OF PLO AND ITS LEADERS. NEITHER ORGANIZATION ITSELF NOR STATEMENTS, MEETINGS OR TRAVEL PLANS OF ITS LEADERS HAVE BEEN COVERED IN ANY DETAIL BY CAIRO PAPERS IN LAST WEEK OR SO.

2. PRESS JAN 31 HAS EXTENSIVE QUOTATION FROM OTHER ARAB NEWSPAPERS PRAISING SADAT'S SUCCESS IN PARIS, STRESSING EGYPT'S SUCCESS IS SUCCESS FOR ALL RPT ALL ARABS. PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IS FACT THAT LOCAL PAPER CHOOSE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CITE COMMENTS (PRESUMABLY HIGHLY SELECTIVE) PUBLISHED IN

BEIRUT PAPERS KNOWN FOR THEIR PRO-FEDAYEEN OR PRO-SOVIET ORIENTATION, INCLUDING AL-MUHARRIR, FOR EXAMPLE, IS QUOTED AS SAYING SADAT'S ARMS DEAL WITH FRANCE EQUALS HIS SUCCESS IN CONVINCING FRANCE TO LEAD WESTERN EUROPE IN MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORTS.

3. EDITORIALS JAN 31 MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR GOE'S DISENCHANTMENT WITH ANTI-EGYPTIAN ALLEGATIONS FROM OTHER ARABS, AND PARTICULARLY PALESTINIANS. AHRAH EDITORIAL BRANDS AS "OBVIOUS SLANDER" AND "BARE FACED LIES" CURRENT "ALLEGATIONS IN BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS" (PRESUMABLY FROM PALESTINIAN SOURCES) THAT "EGYPT HAS SURRENDERED FOR TRIAL TO FOREIGN AUTHORITIES ARAB FEDAYEEN WHO SOUGHT GOE'S PROTECTION, AND THAT EGYPT HAS GRANTED FACILITIES IN THE GULF TO AMERICAN NAVY." (COMMENT: FIRST ALLEGATION PRESUMABLY ARISES FROM SADAT'S REPORTED COMMENT IN JAN 29 PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO TURNING OVER HIJACKERS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. SECOND ALLEGATION WE HAVE NOT HEARD PREVIOUSLY, BUT WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT "REJECTION FRONT" IN BEIRUT MAYPURPORT TO SEE EGYPTIAN HAND BEHIND USG'S REQUEST FOR LANDING RIGHTS ON MASIRAH.)

4. EDITORIALS AND REPORTING ALL MAKE POINT STRONGLY THAT ISRAELIS ARE UNEASY ABOUT RESULTS SADAT'S PARIS VISIT AND THAT THIS SHOULD PLEASE RIGHT-MINDED ARABS. ARABS WHO FOLLOW "DELIBERATELY PROVOCATIVE COURSE" BY DOUBTING EGYPT'S ARABISM SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES. THEIR "LUDICROUS POLITICAL ANALYSIS" IS BASED ON "FANCY AND SUPPOSITIONS." GUMHURIYYA POINTS OUT THAT IN ARAB SPHERE, SADAT'S VISIT TO FRANCE CONFIRMED THAT EGYPT, WHICH HAS SUCCESSFULLY WAGED A MILITARY BATTLE, CAN MOVE EQUALLY POSITIVELY ON POLITICAL LEVEL BY OPENING NEW AVENUES FOR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC CONSOLIDATION FOR BENEFIT OF WHOLE ARAB NATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, LIBERATION FRONTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO01190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-0967
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750281/aaaacuqs.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAIRO PRESS ATTACKS ARAB "DOUBTERS" SUMMARY: CAIRO PRESS PLAYS SADAT'S VISIT TO FRANCE AS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, FR, XF, PLO, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006